



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
200 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0200

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DACS-SF (385-64)

13 SEP 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Storage of Operational, Training, and Ceremonial Ammunition in Arms Rooms

1. References:

- a. DACS-SF memorandum dated Oct 97, subject as above.
- b. DoD 6055.9-STD, DoD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards.
- c. DA Pam 385-64, Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards.
- d. AR 190-11, Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives.

2. This memorandum supersedes reference "a" in clarifying Army policy for the storage of hazard division (HD) (04)1.2, HD 1.3, and HD 1.4 ammunition in unit arms rooms.

a. Chapter 9 of reference "b" and paragraph 5.1b of reference "c" allow, *but discourage*, storage of limited quantities of HD (04)1.2, HD 1.3, and HD 1.4, without regard to quantity-distance requirements, in arms rooms, hangars, and operational buildings, when operational necessity dictates such storage.

b. For Army purposes:

(1) The term "limited quantities" is defined as the minimum amount of ammunition required to support operational missions (e.g., for security guard forces, military police, etc.) or the immediate training requirements of the unit owning the facility. For HD (04)1.2 this may not exceed 50 pounds NEW and for HD 1.3 this may not exceed 100 pounds NEW.

(2) The term "operational necessity" is defined as a mission associated with war or peacetime operations in which the consequences of an action justify the risk of loss of equipment and personnel. The qualifier "operational necessity" is intended to provide commanders the flexibility to ensure mission performance, to include training, without a waste of resources. It is not intended to allow such storage for convenience.

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(3) Munition items authorized for storage in arms rooms are limited to HD (04)1.2, HD 1.3, and HD 1.4. When HD (04)1.2 is stored in an arms room, the proper fragmentation shielding must be provided in accordance with paragraph 5-1b(2) of reference "c."

(4) Storage of ceremonial ammunition is not considered an operational necessity. However, a limited quantity of HD 1.3 ceremonial ammunition (e.g., 75 mm blank, 105 mm blank) may be stored in an arms room provided no other practical alternative exists. The amount of HD 1.3 stored will not exceed the lesser of 100 pounds net explosive weight or one full outer pack of ammunition.

c. Storage in an ammunition holding area (AHA) or ammunition supply point (ASP) will be used unless such use would adversely impact operations or result in an unnecessary commitment of resources (e.g., require unit personnel to provide 24-hour security or extended travel).

d. Prior to a unit storing ammunition in an arms room, the Installation Commander will approve the risk assessment that justifies the storage based on operational necessity and safety considerations. In approving this assessment, the commander will consider the need to expose the minimum number of personnel to the minimum amount of explosives for the minimum amount of time possible. The risk assessment will be coordinated with Installation safety, logistics, security, fire protection, and ammunition surveillance personnel. The risk assessment will be posted at the arms room and all arms room personnel will be briefed, at least annually, on its contents. The commander, or equivalent-level individual, will ensure that:

(1) The facility used is properly licensed for storage of explosives. The license will specify the location approved for storage, the quantity of ammunition, by DODIC, approved for storage, time restrictions on storage, and safety, security, and fire protection inspection requirements.

(2) Because containerization and packing are considerations in determining a munitions HD, munitions are stored in their original container with original packaging (otherwise an explosives safety site plan is required). However, arms rooms that support guard forces or military police may have one outerpack of each caliber of small arms ammunition open for use.

(3) Munitions are stored in accordance with storage compatibility requirements.

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(4) Storage is consistent with the safety requirements of reference "c" and the security requirements of reference "d" (see paragraph 5-8c(1)(a)). (The use of metal storage containers or cabinets is required and ammunition must be stored under the same criteria as it would in an approved ammunition storage facility, (e.g., no combustibles, solvents, petroleum products, or radioactive items in the vicinity of the ammunition).

(5) The appropriate fire and/or chemical hazard symbols are properly posted.

e. When storage in an AHA or ASP would adversely impact operations or result in an unnecessary commitment of resources (e.g., require unit personnel to provide 24-hour security or extended travel) and storage in an arms room is necessary, the following time limitations on such storage apply:

(1) Reserve Component and Reserve Officer Training Command (ROTC) units that are conducting weapons qualification during inactive duty training may, when required and under the conditions stated above, store limited quantities of HD 1.4 munitions inside an arms room for a limited period of time not to exceed 7 days per training period.

(2) Active Component units that are not located in the region of an approved ammunition storage facility (e.g., ASP, AHA, etc.) may, when required and under the conditions stated above, store limited quantities (i.e., the amount required to support their immediate training needs) of HD (04)1.2, HD 1.3, and HD 1.4 munitions inside an arms room for a limited period of time not to exceed 7 days per training period.

(3) Active Component units that are located in the region of an approved ammunition storage facility may, when required and under the conditions stated above, store limited quantities (i.e., the amount required to support their immediate training needs) of HD 1.4 munitions inside an arms room overnight and, when absolutely necessary, over a weekend, not to exceed 72 hours.

3. Major Army Commands will develop licensing procedures, risk assessment strategies, and guidance for implementation of this policy.

4. My point of contact on this issue is Mr. Jim Patton, (703) 601-2408 (DSN 329-2408). Point of contact at the U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosive Safety is Mr. Greg Heles, (918) 420-8877 (DSN 956-8877). Point of contact in the Office of the Deputy

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Chief of Staff for Logistics is Mr. Lou Bornstein, 703/697-4791 (DSN 227-4791).

  
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**CF:**

**Chairman, Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board, 2461 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22331**